

Message Text

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S E C R E T CAIRO 9497

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US IS

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM FAHMY

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH FAHMY EARLY THIS AFTERNOON, HE RECALLED THE TWO DOCUMENTS GIVEN US DURING THE ALEXANDRIA SHUTTLE RE NOT PERMITTING THE ISRAELIS TO MAKE DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN OCCUPIED AREAS. HE THEN HANDED ME THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO YOU DATED TODAY, SEPT 24, ON THE SAME SUBJECT: TEXT FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE: DEAR HENRY:

I TRUST YOU RECALL THAT WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ALL ALONG WITH THE QUESTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES WHICH ISRAEL IS ATTEMPTING TO INTRODUCE IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. AS YOU VERY WELL KNOW, THIS POINT IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE AND EXPLOSIVE ON MANY COUNTS. FIRST, IT SHEDS SERIOUS DOUBTS AS TO FUTURE ISRAELI INTENTIONS. IT IS AN OPEN PROVOCATION AND A CONSTANT IRRITATION TO THE ARAB MASSES, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, FOR IT SYMBOLIZES THE MANNER IN WHICH ISRAELI CONCEIVES OF DEALING WITH ARAB INHABITANTS. IT FANS ARAB FEARS OF ISRAELI EXPANSION AND COLONIZATION AND IS A PERPETUAL REMINDER OF THE WORST ASPECT OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE.

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MOREOVER, IT IS AN UNVEILED DEFIANCE OF SEVERAL

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS WITH RESPECT TO CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, AS WELL AS A CLEAR-CUT VIOLATION BY ISRAEL OF IS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE RESULTING DAMAGE BECOMES COMPOUNDED WHEN SUCH BRAZEN ACTS ARE PERPETRATED A FEW DAYS AFTER REACHING THE RECENT AGREEMENT WITH ALL THE COMMOTION IT CREATED THROUGHOUT THE ARAB WORLD. IT WOULD BE CONSTRUED EITHER AS A BY-PRODUCT OF THE LATEST DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ISRAELI OR AS AN ACQUIESCENCE BY EGYPT TO UNLAWFUL ISRAELI BEHAVIOR. AT ANY RATE, IT IS MOST INCONSISTENT WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE AGREEMENT.

YOU RECALL THAT I RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH YOU MORE THAN ONCE IN THE COURSE OF OUR TALKS IN ASWAN AND ALEXANDRIA. WE WANTED AN ISRAELI UNDERTAKING NOT TO INTRODUCE ANY DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. I HANDED MR. SISCO A DRAFT OF A LETTER OF ASSURANCE TO BE ISSUED TO US BY THE U.S. THAT ISRAEL WILL REFRAIN FROM ANY SUCH CHANGES.

YESTERDAY, THE MEDIA CARRIED A NEWS ITEM TO THE EFFECT THAT BEGINNING NEXT WEEK, NEW JEWISH SETTLERS WILL BE BROUGHT TO A NEWLY-ESTABLISHED SETTLEMENT IN THE VICINITY OF THE CITY OF RAFAH, AN IMPORTANT URBAN CENTER IN SINAI. NEWS STORIES HAD IT THAT WITHIN TEN DAYS, THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY JEWISH FAMILIES WILL MOVE TO THEIR NEWLY-DESIGNATED LIVING QUARTERS. THESE NEW SETTLERS WERE DESCRIBED AS NEW IMMIGRANTS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION. PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY ISRAELI OFFICIALS GIVE THE DISTINCTIVE IMPRESSION THAT IT IS THEIR INTENTION TO EXPAND THIS SETTLEMENT AND MAKE IT A HUGE CIVIC CENTER.

YOU MIGHT AGREE WITH ME THAT IT IS MOST UNTIMELY AND UNFORTUNATE TO ADD FUEL TO THE FIRE BY TAKING SUCH ACTIONS AT THIS POINT IN PARTICULAR. WHAT IS NEEDED IS A FIRM AMERICAN STAND THAT IS ADEQUATE TO DETER THE ISRAELIS AND DISSUADE THEM FROM GOING
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AHEAD WITH THIS PLAN. OF COURSE WE ARE THINKING OF TAKING MEASURES CBMMENSURATE WITH THIS CHALLENGE, BUT IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF YOU EXERT YOUR INFLUENCE ON ISRAEL TO ABANDON THIS DANGEROUS COURSE, THAT WOULD CERTAINLY JEOPARDIZE THE PEACE PROGRESS.
WITH WARM REGARDS, ISMAIL
UNQUOTE
EILTS

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